

TABLE 11-23. DEMOGRAPHICS OF FOSTER YOUTH AT AGE 17 AND THEIR OUTCOMES, FY2011

Based on data for “Baseline Youth” from the National Youth in Transition Database, n=17,021

| Data Element | Description ⁰ | Number and Percentage |
|--|---|---|
| Demographics | | |
| Youth Participation ^a | Youth in foster care at age 17 who were in the baseline population and participated in the data collection by answering at least one question. | 17,021 (60.1%) |
| Sex | Youth who are male or female. | Male: 8,781 (51.6%) Female: 8,240 (48.4%) |
| Race | Youth self-identifies, or is identified by a family member as a member of a racial group(s). Youth self-identifies, or is identified by a family member, as Hispanic or Latino. | American Indian or Alaska Native: 223 (1.3%) Asian: 135 (0.8%) Black or African American: 5,152 (30.3%) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 47 (0.3%) Hispanic (of any race): 3,118 (18.3%) White: 7,485 (44.0%) Unknown/Declined: 153 (0.9%) Two or More Races: 708 (4.2%) |
| Outcome 1: Increase young people’s financial self-sufficiency | | |
| Full-Time Employment ^c | Youth was employed full-time (35 hours or more a week) during the reporting period. | Yes: 247 (1.4%) No: 16,577 (97.4%) Declined: 171 (1.0%) |
| Part-Time Employment ^c | Youth was employed part-time (less than 35 hours a week) during the reporting period. | Yes: 1,958 (11.5%) No: 14,804 (87.0%) Declined: 225 (1.3%) |
| Employment-Related Skills | Youth completed an apprenticeship, internship, or other type of on-the-job training in the past year. | Yes: 3,384 (19.9%) No: 13,320 (78.3%) Declined: 280 (1.6%) |
| Social Security | Youth received Social Security benefits, including—Social Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), either directly or as a dependent beneficiary. | Yes: 2,224 (13.1%) No: 14,137 (83.1%) Declined: 623 (3.6%) |
| Educational Aid | Youth received educational financial assistance—a scholarship, education or training voucher, grant, stipend, student loan, or other type of educational financial aid—during the reporting period. | Yes: 629 (3.7%) No: 15,907 (93.5%) Declined: 452 (2.7%) |
| Other Financial Support | Youth received any other ongoing financial resources or support not included in the previous financial elements during the reporting period, such as—financial support through a spouse, child support payments, or a legal settlement. This excludes child care subsidies, child support for a youth’s child, or other financial help that does not benefit the youth directly in supporting himself or herself. | Yes: 1,370 (8.0%) No: 14,657 (86.1%) Declined: 395 (2.3%) |

| Data Element | Description ⁰ | Number and Percentage |
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Outcome 2: Improve young people's educational (academic or vocational) training

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Highest Educational Certification Received | Youth's highest level of educational certification. | Vocational certificate/license: 50 (0.3%) High School Diploma or GED: 1,340 (7.9%) Declined: 780 (4.6%) |
| Current Enrollment/ Attendance | Youth was enrolled in and attending school during the reporting period, including youth who remained enrolled in school while on a break our out of session. | Yes: 15,855 (93.1%) No: 909 (5.3%) Declined: 217 (1.3%) |

Outcome 3: Improve young people's positive connections with adults

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| Connection to Adult | Youth had a positive connection to an adult who could serve in a mentoring or substitute parent capacity during the reporting period, including--a relative, former foster parent, birth parent, or older member of the community. This excludes a peer or current caseworker. | Yes: 15,831 (93.0%) No: 846 (5.0%) Declined: 264 (1.6%) |
|---------------------|--|---|

Outcome 4: Reduce homelessness among young people

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| Homelessness | Youth has ever been homeless. | Yes: 2,707 (15.9%) No: 13,941 (81.9%) Declined: 321 (1.9%) |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--|

Outcome 5: Reduce high-risk behavior among young people

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|---------------------------|---|--|
| Substance Abuse Referral | Youth was referred or self-referred for alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling during the reporting period. | Yes: 4,625 (27.2%) No: 12,037 (70.7%) Declined: 320 (1.8%) |
| Incarceration | Youth has ever been confined to a jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility in connection with allegedly committing a crime. | Yes: 6,016 (35.3%) No: 10,603 (62.3%) Declined: 355 (2.1%) |
| Children | Youth has ever given birth to, or fathered, any children. | Yes: 1,230 (7.2%) No: 15,187 (89.2%) Declined: 318 (1.9%) |
| Marriage at Child's Birth | Youth was married to his or her child's other biological parent at the time of the child's birth. | Yes: 17 (0.1%) No: 1,111 (6.5%) Declined: 247 (1.5%) Not Applicable: 15,560 (91.4%) |

Outcome 6: Access to health insurance

| | | |
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| Medicaid | Youth was participating in a Medicaid-funded state program. | Yes: 13,816 (81.1%) No: 1,556 (9.1%) Declined: 235 (1.4%) Did Not Know: 903 (5.3%) |
| Other Health Insurance | Youth had health insurance (third-party pay) other than Medicaid. | Yes: 2,911 (17.1%) No: 11,364 (66.8%) Declined: 213 (1.2%) Did Not Know: 1,953 (11.5%) |

| Data Element | Description⁰ | Number and Percentage |
|--|---|---|
| Health Insurance Type-Medical | Youth had insurance that pays for all or part of medical health services (applies only to youth who reported “yes” to having “other health insurance”). | Yes: 2,660 (15.6%) No: 61 (0.4%) Declined: 31 (0.2%) Did Not Know: 270 (1.6%) |
| Health Insurance Type-Mental Health | Youth had insurance coverage for at least some mental health services (applies only to youth who reported “yes” to having insurance with medical coverage). | Yes: 2,239 (13.2%) No: 101 (0.6%) Declined: 31 (0.2%) Did Not Know: 404 (2.4%) |
| Health Insurance Type-Prescription Drugs | Youth had insurance coverage for at least some prescription drugs (applies only to youth who reported “yes” to having insurance with medical coverage). | Yes: 2,482 (14.6%) No: 69 (0.4%) Declined: 27 (0.2%) Did Not Know: 207 (1.2%) |

Source: Table prepared by the Congressional Research Service for the 2012 version of the House Ways and Means Green Book, based on information provided by HHS, ACF, ACYF, September 2012.

Notes: Data were reported as of June 18, 2012 and were submitted by all 52 jurisdictions (50 states, DC and PR). “Baseline youth” refer to all 17-year-olds in foster care, regardless of whether they received any independent living services. Some data were missing for each element or the data were in error, and therefore the number of youth does not total 17,021 and percentages do not total to 100% in those categories that have multiple variables (i.e., sex, full-time employment, health insurance type, etc.).

For a full description of each data element, see U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Chafee National Youth in Transition Database,” 73 *Federal Register* 10338, February 26, 2008.

The remaining youth eligible to participate in the baseline survey did not participate, either because they or their parents declined; they were incapacitated or incarcerated; they were runaway, missing, or otherwise could not be invited or located; or they were deceased.

A youth may have had full-time and part-time jobs concurrently.